

## **Listing of Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. By the present communication claims 1-3, 6-7 and 9-25 have been amended, and claims 4-5 and 8 have been maintained in their original or previously presented form. No new matter has been added. Thus, claims 1-25 are pending and under active prosecution.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of an additive for providing controllable degradation of thermoplastics of very light colors, ~~which do not degrade too rapidly to allow conventional methods for their processing, like~~ suitable for processing by film blowing, extrusion, or ~~and~~ injection molding, comprising:

reacting a metal salt in ~~at~~ its highest stable oxidation state with a  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid or a  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid derivative in the presence of an oxidizing agent under formation of to form a fat-soluble metal compound, ~~and at least one volatile reaction product in a process in which a~~ convenient wherein the oxidizing agent ensures that all of the metal in the additive is end product remains in its highest oxidation state.

2. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~wherein~~ said oxidizing agent comprises a 0.1-5% ~~hydrogen~~ aqueous hydrogen peroxide solution.

3. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent comprises an organic peroxide[[s]] or ~~and~~ hydro peroxide[[s]].

4. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said oxidizing agent comprises air or oxygen enriched air.

5. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said metal salt is a chloride.
6. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid or a  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid derivative is added in a stoichiometric excess of at least 20% **excess**, in relation to the metal salt.
7. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising: washing the fat soluble metal compound with an aqueous solution of hydrogen peroxide to remove any remains of unreacted metal salt ~~by dispersing the fat soluble metal compound in an aqueous diluted solution of the hydrogen peroxide at a temperature of between about 35-55°C for 1 to 3 hours~~, then washing the fat soluble metal compound with water and drying the fat soluble metal compound in a convection oven.
8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid or a  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid derivative comprises stearic acid.
9. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising adding wax to the reaction mixture to bind the product to solid lumps that do not release dust.
10. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising removing wherein—the volatile reaction products and/ or reactants ~~are—eliminated~~ by azeotropic distillation.
11. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the metal salt comprises an iron **(III)** salt ~~of which the highest oxidation state is 3~~.
12. (Currently Amended) A compound ~~An additive~~ for controlling the degradation time of ~~products like~~ thermoplastic products<sub>[[s]]</sub> ~~oil and the like, comprising:~~

a metal compound, wherein the metal in the metal compound is in its highest oxidation state and a fatty acid or fatty acid derivative, wherein the degradation promoting compound additive is prepared by reacting a metal salt and a C<sub>8</sub>-C<sub>24</sub> fatty acid or fatty acid derivative in the presence of an oxidizing agent, wherein the oxidizing agent maintains the metal in the metal salt is present in its highest oxidation state as defined by claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) The compound for controlling degradation ~~An additive~~ as claimed in claim 12, wherein the compound for controlling degradation additive is included as one of several elements of a master batch being tailored for a particular application.

14. (Currently Amended) The compound for controlling degradation use of additive as claimed in claim 12 ~~in thermoplastics in combination with at least one per se known further comprising at least one~~ additive selected from the group consisting of chosen among antioxidants, radical scavengers, UV absorbers, amines, peroxides, and/ or peroxide forming substances for thermoplastics or blends thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The compound for controlling degradation use of the additive as claimed in claim 12, wherein said thermoplastic comprises polyethylene, polypropylene or any combination of polyethylene and polypropylene.

16. (Previously Presented) The compound for controlling degradation use as claimed in claim 14, wherein the type and amount of said ~~per se known~~ additive or additives being chosen and adapted respectively are selected so that the desired degradation time is achieved for the actual thermoplastic material or blend of thermoplastic materials.

17. (Currently Amended) The compound for controlling degradation use as claimed in claim ~~claims~~ 14, where said ~~per se known~~ additive is selected from the group consisting of chosen among Sanduvor PR25, Chimassorb 81, Cyasorb UV 5911, Tinuvin 326, and Tinuvin 1577.

18. (Currently Amended) The compound for controlling degradation use-as claimed in claim 14, where said ~~per-se-known-additives are~~ additive is present in a relative amount of from 0.03 to 10% by weight of the thermoplastic material or the blend of thermoplastic materials, ~~and preferably from 0.05 to 0.5%.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A The method for the manufacture of a very light-colored manufactured thermoplastic material which may be film blown, extruded and/ or injection molded ~~and which yet~~ that is degradable in less than one year under influence of light, comprising:

combining a thermoplastic, an additive comprising a metal compound, and an antioxidant, wherein the metal compound additive is prepared by reacting a metal salt with a C<sub>8</sub> – C<sub>24</sub> fatty acid in the presence of an oxidizing agent, and wherein as claimed in claim 9 the metal compound additive is added to the thermoplastic in an amount of at least 0.03% by weight of the thermoplastic material, to produce a processible thermoplastic mixture; and, in combination with a per-se-known antioxidant

processing the thermoplastic mixture by film blowing, extrusion or injection molding to produce the manufactured thermoplastic material.

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the amount of metal compound additive ~~is adapted to the chosen type of and the~~ amount of antioxidant are selected in order to control the processibility of the manufactured thermoplastic as well as its degradation time under influence of light.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claims 19, wherein the metal compound additive comprises ferric(III) stearate in an amount of at least 0.1 % by weight of the thermoplastic ~~material~~.

22. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 21, wherein the ferric (III) **stearate setearate** comprises a 0.5 % by weight solution in an aliphatic hydrocarbon, consisting of **poly-1-decene poly(1-deken)**, which has a Gardner Colour Number according to ASTM 1544, that is 4 or less than 4.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said antioxidant is **chosen among process stabilizers selected from the group** consisting of phosphites, thio synergists, CH-acid radical scavengers, and phenolic antioxidants.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, further comprising compounding the additive and the thermoplastic in an extruder.

25. (Currently Amended) A very light-colored thermoplastic material **that designed to degrade in less than a year** may be film blown, extruded and/ or injection molded **and which yet will degrade in less than one year under influence of light**, wherein the material is manufactured according to claim 19.

26. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of reacting a metal in its highest stable oxidation state with a  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid or a  $C_8 - C_{24}$  fatty acid derivative in the presence of an oxidizing agent further comprises the formation of at least one volatile reaction product.